

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-15, 19-21, 23-24 and 26-27 remain in the case. Claims 12-14, 19-20, 23-24 and 27 are allowed. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11,15,21 and 26 stand rejected on §112 grounds. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested. Claim comments are provided substantially in numerical order.

With respect to claim 1, this claim rejected under 35 §112, second paragraph, because text added by the previous amendment is allegedly unclear. Applicant has amended the claim above for clarity and offers the following explanatory comments. The limitations in question are found in the following paragraphs of claim 1:

"wherein said inner wall is comprised primarily of a substantially cylindrical region and also includes a tapered region, the inner wall tapered region being located between the substantially cylindrical region of the inner wall and the inner wall seal at the base and having a diameter that decreases or remains constant from the inner wall substantially cylindrical region to the inner wall seal at the base;

wherein said outer wall is comprised primarily of a substantially cylindrical region and also includes a tapered region, the outer wall tapered region being located between the substantially cylindrical region of the outer wall and the outer wall seal at the base and having a diameter that decreases or remains constant from the outer wall substantially cylindrical region to the outer wall seal at the base;"

Attached hereto is an annotated Fig. 1. "A" represents the substantially cylindrical region of the inner wall and "B" represents the tapered region. It is apparent from Fig. 1 that the diameter of the "inner wall tapered region" decreases at "C" and remains substantially constant at "D" and thus the diameter "decreases or remains constant *from the inner wall substantially cylindrical region to the inner wall seal at the base.*"

With respect to the outer wall recitations in the second quoted paragraph above, the same rationale applies. The outer wall has a substantially cylindrical region ("E") and a tapered region ("F") provided between the cylindrical region and the base. The tapered region, at any point therein, has "a diameter that decreases or remains constant *from the outer wall substantially cylindrical region to the outer wall seal at the base.*"

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 11, the word "air" has been removed from this claim so that it recites an "insulative gap" as introduced in claim 1.

Claim 15 has been amended as helpfully pointed out by the Examiner.

Regarding claim 21, this claim refers to embodiments such as those disclosed in Fig. 4, where there is a top and bottom section and the top section runs substantially the entire length of the outer wall such that the "outer wall is comprised substantially of a single section of polycarbonate material."

Claim 26 has also been amended as helpfully pointed out by the Examiner.

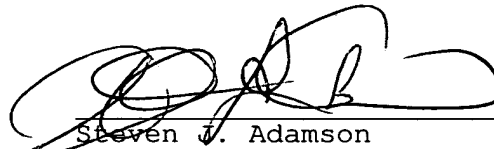
In view of the foregoing Amendments and these Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-15, 19-21, 23-24 and 26-27 are now in condition for allowance and early notification of same is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would help further the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the listed telephone number.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any fees (including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 for additional claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17 including any fee for extension of time) associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0272. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted
on behalf of Applicant,

Date: _____

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